Development of waste and drought affected land

1625. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate a comprehensive action plan for development of waste land, drought affected land by producing agro-crop in the country with the help of National Employment Guarantee Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 has been notified on 7.9.2005. Under the Act, rural employment Guarantee Schemes are to be formulated by the State Governments. The State Governments have been instructed to formulate rural employment Guarantee Schemes under the Act. Land development, irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works and provision of irrigation facilities to land owned by households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms or that of the beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana are some of the permissible works under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA).

Construction of roads in Uttaranchal under PMGSY

1626. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads in rural, hilly and far-flung areas in Uttaranchal being constructed, district-wise and Panchayat-wise, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, road-wise; and

(b) the total funds allotted and utilised for the construction of these roads during the last three years in the State of Uttaranchal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) 'Rural Roads' is a State subject. The responsibility of construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana lies with the States. The Ministry of Rural Development does not maintain district-wise, Panchayat-wise and

road-wise information on road works taken up by the States under the programme. The Ministry of Rural Development has approved a total of 290 road works over a length of 1811.87 kms. at a cost of Rs. 360.83 crore, proposed by Uttaranchal upto November, 2005.

(b) Against total allocation of Rs. 395.00 crore to Uttaranchal upto 2005-06 for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, an amount of Rs. 201.04 crore has been released to the State. The State has so far reported expenditure of Rs. 129.92 crore.

Implementation of NREGS

†1627. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to implement the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in an effective manner;

(b) whether assistance would also be sought from Non-Governmental Organisations for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 has been notified on 7.9.2005. Under the Act, Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes are to be formulated by the State Governments. The State Governments have been instructed to formulate Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes under the Act. Wide ranging consultations have been held with State Governments, Non-Governmental Organisations, experts and eminent people with a view to framing the guidelines for the effective implementation of the Act. Under the Act, implementing agency also includes non-governmental organizations authorized by the Central Government or the State Government to undertake the implementation of any work taken up under a Scheme.

Non-performance of States on drinking water supply

1628. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.